

North Carolina  
National Register Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
February 11, 2010

The North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee (NRAC) met on February 11, 2010, in the conference room on the third floor of the Archives and History/State Library Building, 109 East Jones Street, in downtown Raleigh. All committee members were in attendance: Mr. B. Perry Morrison Jr., chairman, Ms. Lucy Webster Archie, Mr. David R. Black, Dr. Tony Boudreaux, Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan, Dr. Jerry Cashion, Mr. John Larson, Ms. Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, Dr. Freddy Parker, Mr. Glenn Perkins, Mr. Kenneth W. Robinson, and Mrs. Barbara B. Snowden.

State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) staff members present were: Peter Sandbeck, deputy state historic preservation officer; Claudia Brown, Survey and National Register Branch supervisor; Ann Swallow, National Register coordinator; Jessica Dockery, National Register and survey specialist; Jannette Coleridge-Taylor, National Register assistant; Chandrea Burch, file and photography clerk; Anna Grantham, assistant file and photography clerk, Julie Curry, environmental review specialist; Andrew Edmonds, GIS technician; Scott Power, Eastern Office supervisor; John Wood, preservation and restoration specialist, Eastern Office; Mitch Wilds, Restoration Services Branch supervisor; Paul Fomberg, senior restoration specialist; Tim Simmons, senior preservation architect; David Christenbury, preservation architect; and Lucy Pittman, program assistant.

Visitors in attendance included Dr. David Brook, director of the Division of Historical Resources; Vinnie DeBenedetto, representing the Holly Springs Masonic Lodge; several students in the UNC-Greensboro historic preservation program; and consultants Laura Blokker, Heather Fearnbach, Jennifer Martin Mitchell, Cynthia de Miranda, and Rebecca Spanbauer.

Following a one-hour training session presented by HPO staff, Mr. Morrison called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. with welcoming comments. He reminded members that the committee's by-laws require members to announce real or perceived conflicts of interest before a National Register nomination or Study List application is presented and to leave the room during the presentation and discussion. Mr. Morrison then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2009, meeting. Ms. Leimenstoll moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Black seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Mr. Morrison turned the meeting over to Mr. Sandbeck, who explained that Dr. Crow was not in attendance because he was in Ohio to attend the memorial service for his father, who had passed away earlier in the month. Mr. Sandbeck also announced that Jessica Dockery had given birth to a baby girl, Eva, on December 30 and is on leave until mid-March.

Mr. Sandbeck began his report by noting that little had changed regarding the state budget. All departments have been asked to propose three, five, and seven percent cuts, and he has heard that Governor Perdue is seeking program cuts yielding elimination of approximately 3,000 positions statewide rather than strictly across-the-board cuts. He said that it is fortunate that the Department of Cultural Resources is such a small portion of the state budget and that Secretary Carlisle is very supportive of the HPO.

He had good news to report regarding federal funding for the HPO, which increased from \$831,000 in 2009 to \$917,000 in 2010 and is holding steady. He said that the federal appropriation is providing all of the HPO's funding for travel and purchasing and that preservation funding in the President's 2011 budget is the same as in 2010. Mr. Sandbeck also reported that early in March, in conjunction with the annual National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) annual meeting, he, Dr. Crow, Ms. Leimenstoll, and a delegation of students from her UNC-Greensboro historic preservation program will participate in the NCSHPO's lobbying day on Capitol Hill and Claudia Brown and Ann Swallow will attend a National Park Service workshop on National Historic Landmarks.

Regarding other matters, Mr. Sandbeck noted that the deadline for submitting applications for the annual Certified Local Government grants administered by the HPO, which primarily support survey and National Register nomination projects, is February 12 and an application for at least one archaeological project is expected. Following up on discussion during the training session earlier in the morning, he said that the HPO will make a greater effort to coordinate with the Office of State Archaeology about the potential archaeological significance of nominated properties with standing resources, especially if it is known that buildings have been removed from the site. Mr. Sandbeck also announced that a state-sponsored workshop on climate change adaptation to be held on March 2 and 3 at the NCSU McKimmon Center would include consideration of the potential implication of sea level rise on architectural and archaeological resources and the need to begin preparing for potential impacts. Finally, Mr. Sandbeck said that the historic mill tax credit is scheduled to sunset in 2011 and that an effort to extend it to 2014 is under way with good support from Secretary Carlisle and her legislative liaison, as well as State Representative Deborah Ross and Preservation NC executive director Myrick Howard.

National Register coordinator Ann Swallow circulated a sheet of statistics provided by the National Park Service on the number of nominations each state submitted in federal fiscal years 2008 and 2009, noting that North Carolina was sixth each year. She observed that most states' listings declined from 2008 to 2009, including North Carolina's, which dropped slightly from 55 to 53, and that North Carolina's will drop considerably in federal fiscal year 2010 to fewer than 30. Ms. Swallow said that about one-third of our nominations in 2008 and 2009 were for districts sponsored by local governments or organizations and reflected community interest, about one-third were directly prompted by plans to apply for the rehabilitation tax credits, and more than one-third in 2009 resulted from the simple desire for recognition and to raise awareness. She added that this analysis surprised her because she assumed the tax credits would have had a greater impact.

Ms. Swallow then recognized visitor Heather Fearnbach, a historic preservation consultant and adjunct faculty member of UNC-Greensboro's historic preservation program, who introduced several of her graduate students working on survey and nomination projects.

Consideration of National Register nominations began with presentation by Becca Johnson of one nomination from the western region of the state, Biltmore High School in Asheville, after which there were no questions or discussion. Mr. Black made a motion to approve the nomination, Ms. Archie seconded the motion, and it was approved by all.

Ms. Swallow presented four nominations for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). Discussion ensued following her presentation.

Regarding the Johnson Farm in Harnett County, Ms. Leimenstoll said that a statement about the farm's archaeological potential would be appropriate for this property due to the network of roads, the arbor, and the knowledge that an earlier Johnson house and a number of tenant houses have been lost. Ms. Swallow replied that she would be comfortable with an acknowledgement that archaeological significance has not been investigated but she does not think that it would be appropriate to state that there is the potential for archaeological significance in the absence of any archaeological investigation or coordination with the Office of State Archaeology (OSA). Mr. Black suggested that at the minimum, the location of the lost resources could be documented. Ms. Swallow said that the survey file might have additional information that has not been included in the nomination. Mr. Black described this omission as a shortcoming as it is clear that there is the potential for archaeological resources and that these resources need to be managed. Claudia Brown interjected that it would be appropriate to insert a brief statement acknowledging the potential for archaeological resources, but this potential already is understood based on the documentation in the nomination and such a statement would have no effect on any future environmental review. Mr. Larson added that such a statement would at least serve as an educational tool and alert the owners to the possibility that their property contains significant archaeological resources. Mr. Sandbeck directed staff to confer with OSA and National Park Service staff about this issue and report back to the NRAC at their June meeting.

Also regarding the Johnson Farm, Mr. Black asked how much of the 1918 interior of the main house remains. Ms. Swallow said that redecorating in 1942 removed some of it but much is still in place. Jennifer Martin Mitchell, who prepared the nomination for the farm, clarified that the 1918 finish was quite plain, as indicated by the staircase and mantelpieces still in place, but most of the moldings were added by Goldie Johnson in 1942. Mr. Larson asked why a photograph of the dynamite house was not included in the nomination. Ms. Mitchell said that it is a small building among many outbuildings. Mr. Larson said that he would like to see more images of the outbuildings in his packet, to which Ms. Swallow replied that additional survey photos could be provided upon request by an email message to her.

Regarding the Fairmont Historic District, Ms. Leimenstoll observed that the west side of the district retains good integrity but there are many noncontributing resources on the east and north sides and asked how boundaries were determined. Ms. Swallow responded that the boundary was extended to the north to include the Modernist car dealership and to the south to encompass the library; many of the buildings in between are noncontributing, but they are small structures on large parcels, which make their impact appear on the map larger than it really is.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Morrison asked for a motion on the central and southeastern nominations. Mr. Larson moved for their approval and Dr. Parker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

After a recess for lunch, Mr. Morrison reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. (Mr. Perkins had left during lunch.) Scott Power introduced Laura Blokker, principal investigator for the comprehensive architectural survey of Bertie County, who proceeded to present twenty-six individual properties and six districts in Bertie County for placement on the National Register Study List (see attached agenda). Upon completion of the presentation, Mr. Larson commented that several of the properties appeared to be ruinous. Ms. Blokker replied that some of them look quite deteriorated but all are structurally sound. She responded in the affirmative to Mr. Larson's follow-up question about interest in National Register listing by owners of the deteriorated properties. Upon a motion made by Mr. Larson and seconded by Dr. Bryan, the committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed Bertie County survey Study List.

(Dr. Parker left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.)

Ms. Brown introduced Rebecca Spanbauer, principal investigator for the comprehensive architectural survey of Northampton County, who presented thirty-one individual properties and eight districts in Northampton County for placement on the National Register Study List (see attached agenda). Upon completion of the presentation, Ms. Leimenstoll made a motion to place the proposed properties on the Study List, Dr. Cashion seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

The meeting continued with consideration of Study List applications submitted by the public, beginning with an application for the Lincoln Park Historic District in Rocky Mount presented by Mr. Power. Mr. Robinson moved to place the district on the Study List, Ms. Leimenstoll seconded the motion, and all voted for it.

Ms. Johnson presented three Study List applications for properties in the western region of the state (see attached agenda). She noted that staff recommended approval of two of the applications but recommended denial of the application for the Cheoah District Office, U. S. Forest Service in Graham County because the building has been extensively altered. Mr. Black asked who made the Study List request, to which Ms. Johnson replied that the Town of Robbinsville submitted the application because they want to acquire the building and promote its preservation.

Ms. Swallow and Ms. Brown presented seven applications submitted for properties in the central and southeastern regions of the state (see attached agenda). In the course of their presentations, it was noted that staff recommended unconditional approval of all of the properties for the Study List except for the Ailey Young House in Wake Forest, for which approval was recommended with caution that a National Register nomination is unlikely to be approved before rehabilitation of the building is well under way; the T. F. Boyd House in Hamlet, for which denial was recommended due to the building's advanced deterioration; and the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Raleigh due to lack of historic integrity. In response to several committee members' questioning whether or not the T. F. Boyd House was so deteriorated that it could not be saved, staff changed the recommendation to approval with a strong caution that immediate stabilization of the building is necessary for a nomination to be successful. Mr. Black made a motion to approve staff recommendations regarding Study List applications from the public for properties in the western, central, and southeastern regions of the state. Dr. Boudreaux seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Morrison thanked the committee and staff for their work and noted that the next NRAC meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2010. There being no further business, Mr. Morrison adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey J. Crow  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JJC/cp  
Attachment